

## CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A bidirectional line switch ring (BLSR) system using a pair of integrated circuit (IC) relay devices, the system comprising:

a first relay including:

an input switch having a default input and a duplex input to receive communications, a control port to accept switch commands, and an output to supply the selected communications;

a default output; and

a duplex output connected to the default input; and

a second relay including:

an input switch having a default input and a duplex input to receive communications, a control port to accept switch commands, and an output to supply the selected communications;

a default output; and

a duplex output connected to the default input;

wherein the duplex output of the first relay is connected to the duplex input of the second relay; and

wherein the duplex output of the second relay is connected to the duplex input of the first relay.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 in which the communications are organized in a digital frame structure including forward error correction (FEC);

wherein the first relay further includes:

a decoder having an input connected to the input switch output, the decoder supplying decoded and corrected communications at a decoder output.

wherein the second relay further includes:

a decoder having an input connected to the input switch output, the decoder supplying decoded and corrected communications at a decoder output.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the first relay further includes:

an encoder having an input connected to the decoder output, the encoder supplying encoded communications at an output connected to the first relay default output;

wherein the second relay further includes:

an encoder having an input connected to the decoder output, the encoder supplying encoded communications at an output connected to the second relay default output.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~45~~ 14 in which a first mode of operation is selected;

wherein the first relay input switch control port accepts a command to select the default input, and wherein the first relay decodes, encodes, and supplies communications received on the input switch default input to the default output; and

wherein the second relay input switch control port accepts a command to select the default input, and wherein the second relay decodes, encodes, and supplies communications received on the input switch default input to the default output.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~45~~ 14 in which a second mode of operation is selected;

wherein the first relay input switch control port accepts a command to select the duplex input, wherein the first relay decodes and encodes the communications, and wherein the first relay supplies communications received on the input switch duplex input at the default output; and

wherein the second relay input switch control port accepts a command to select the duplex input, wherein the second relay decodes and encodes the communications, and wherein the second relay supplies communications received on the input switch duplex input at the default output.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the first relay default input accepts communications, and supplies the communications at the duplex output; and  
wherein the second relay input switch default input accepts communications, and supplies the communications at the duplex output.